

# HOUSTON HERALD

SPORTS | B1



## YOUNG FOOTBALL PLAYERS GATHER FOR SUMMER CAMP

Houston Middle School head coach Todd McKinney led the camp this week.

And the dust returns to the ground it came from, and the spirit returns to God who gave it. Ecclesiastes 12:7

READ BY 180,000+ MONTHLY IN PRINT AND ONLINE

THURSDAY ■ JULY 13, 2023 ■ \$1.00

 houstonherald.com

## Rare bison born in county



DOUG DAVISON | HOUSTON HERALD

A rare albino bison calf stands with its mother last week on property in the Elk Creek area of Texas County.

Against odds equivalent to those of winning a major lottery, an albino bison calf was recently born in a herd owned by Hamilton Native Outpost CEO Colt Hamilton. After living beyond the crucial one-month barrier, the little girl is doing well. See a full story on page A5.

## Houston City Council cuts ties with administrator, pursues new leadership

The Houston City Council announced last Friday that it fired city administrator Mark Campbell, effective immediately.

“The city of Houston has decided to pursue a different direction of leadership to better suit our community and our citizens,” said city officials.

The vote was 5-1 (with Alderman Tim Ceplina voting no).

The council has yet to appoint an interim. Currently, Viki Narancich, mayor; Kevin Stilley, mayor pro tem; and Don Romines, alderman; are working together to help make sure the city continues to move forward.

Campbell, 51, was hired in September 2022, based on the recommendation of former Mayor Willy Walker and a 5-0 vote of the council (councilman Kevin Stilley was unable to attend the meeting but expressed support of the hiring).



CAMPBELL

Campbell immigrated to America from Northern Ireland in the 1990s, attained a bachelor's degree in America and helped managed several communities in Missouri, Colorado, Montana and Kansas.

Those looking to contact the city with administrator-related questions can contact Mayor Narancich at vikinarancich@gmail.com. She is working with city departments to ensure that citizens' questions and concerns are routed to the appropriate department.

## City makes tax changes at meeting, discusses parks

A change in tax classification for firemen and police officers and an upcoming public hearing were among matters discussed on Monday of last week by the Houston City Council.

Absent from the meeting was Mark Campbell, city administrator, who was attending a wedding in Colorado.

After discussion in previous committee and council meetings, the council approved a switch from 1099s to W2s for firemen and reserve officers. This change will allow taxes to be withheld during the year, will allow the pay to be direct deposited and will increase the payroll tax burden of the city. Don Romines, member, was the only dissenting vote.

Also discussed was a public input meeting that took place July 12 for the utilization of donated land located at

Lilly Avenue and West Highway 17.

Early in 2022, the city accepted the 1.88-acre tract, which included a rock exterior house and two outbuildings, from Marvin and the late Audrey Bridges, who grew up in Houston and lived in Springfield.

They are retired educators and both graduated from Houston High School in the 1950s. Among other stipulations, the park will have handicapped accessible features, flower beds, walkways, seating and tables.

### In other matters:

■Members discussed security and meeting camera usage and efficacy. Previously, a \$7,498.55 charge was made to update the system, \$1.45 shy of the amount needed to come before

the council.

■Romines discussed getting a podium for public guests.

■A motion passed to purchase a new camera for the police evidence room, budget cameras for city parks next year and turn cameras and audio off at the end of council's open session.

■Members discussed the delay of airport construction again, questioning the continual setbacks. Work is now slated for July 24.

■A motion passed to purchase 36 new electric meters, with the discussion of an app where customers can view their electric bill.

■Members corrected an issue where meters were charging the wrong accounts.

■The council agreed to have the mayor sign a letter of support for the

city's power supplier to receive grant funding for the construction of solar farms.

■Members decided to pursue different pool hours next year.

■The council agreed to close West Main Street to Grand Avenue from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Saturday, July 8 for Mean Muggin's one-year anniversary.

■Members discussed getting a policy in place to force residents to cut down dead trees. For now, letters will be sent to residents requesting they do so.

■The potential to receive broadband funding released by the governor was discussed.

■The postponement of the fireworks show was indefinite, as a date could not be determined.

At 7:46 p.m., the council adjourned into closed session.

## Several people win credits, awards at Intercounty annual meeting

Several Intercounty Electric Cooperative Association customers won credits at the company's recent annual meeting in Licking.

### \$50 CREDITS

David Scantlin, Houston; Ruth Flett, Rolla; Maria Lewis, Raymondville; Shelley McCormick, Salem; Carl Collet, Rolla; William Sorrell,

Summersville; David Schockley, Salem; Monty Wilson, Rolla; Malissa Crewse, Licking; Wayne Smith, Summersville; Porter Wiseman, Houston; Randy Verkamp, St. James; Gary Curle, Summersville; Robin Calvin, Bucyrus; Donald Stephens, Licking; Kathryn Storlie, Summersville; Henry Kohenskey, Edgar Springs; Kevin Cooper, Rolla; Louis McCa-

rthy, Edgar Springs; and James Beck Jr., Rolla.

### \$100 CREDITS

Beverly Hellon, St. James; Gloria Sterner, Mountain Grove; HB Acres, Rolla; Ann Liebert, Licking; Roger Hagemann, Summersville; L.C. Wolfe, Bucyrus; Julius Pounds, Houston; Jim Mader, Rolla; Boone Township, Licking; and

Robert Dodds, Rolla.

### \$250 CREDITS

Donnetta James, Licking; Benny Scheets, Cabool; Leonard Ketterer, Licking; Janis Rensch, Licking.

### \$500 CREDITS

Steven Settles, Licking; and Beverly Lee, Rolla.

### \$100 SHO-ME CASH AWARDS

Bobby Branstetter, Raymondville; Ancil Crewse, Huggins; Anthony West, Salem; and Lake Springs Community Building.

### COLORING CONTEST WINNERS

BUDDY BEARS — Azalea Sapaugh, age 3-5; and

Paisley Gilmore, age 6-8.

### BICYCLE WINNERS

Sophia Chase and Kaylyn Kinder in the 9-12 age group, and Kinslee Shaw and Knoxyn Kinder in the 5-8 age group.

Members approved three amendments and elected three to the board of directors.

See INTERCOUNTY, A2

### TEXAS COUNTY FAIR SET FOR JULY 25-29

The Texas County Fair Board has released the schedule for the 73rd version of the annual event. A8



### PLAY SET FOR RUN IN WILLOW SPRINGS

The Star Dramatic Company will present "The Mysterious Beast of Gévaudan" on six dates in late July. A8

Accidents A2  
Arrests A2  
Calendar A4  
Classifieds B2

Obituaries A3  
Opinion A6  
Police A5  
Public notices B7

School News A4  
Sheriff A5  
Sports B1  
Worship B4-5

Copyright ©2023  
Houston Newspapers Inc.  
Volume 146 • Issue 12



# A miracle in white



DOUG DAVISON | HOUSTON HERALD

A rare albino bison calf stands with its mother last week on property in the Elk Creek area of Texas County.

## Rare albino bison born in Texas County

By DOUG DAVISON  
Houston Herald  
ddavison@houstonherald.com

White bison are extremely rare.

In fact, the odds of an American Bison being white are about the same as correctly choosing all six numbers in a lottery, as the National Bison Association indicates the phenomenon occurs naturally in only about one out of every 10 million births (with higher rates resulting from selective breeding practices).

Texas County resident Colt Hamilton hit the bison jackpot when an albino female calf was born about five weeks ago on his property on Highway UU south of Houston. Hamilton is CEO of Hamilton Native Outpost (HNO) in the Elk Creek area of Texas County, a company that specializes in cultivating and selling seed from plants native to Missouri, as well as educating and helping people interested in ecosystem restoration and creation of wildlife habitat.

A few years ago, Hamilton began using bison for a very specific purpose that falls right in line with what HNO is all about.

"I always heard they were very selective and only ate grass and weren't at all interested in the native forbes," he said. "We grow hundreds of kinds of native forbes, which are flowers, and I used to spray fields with grass killer to keep the grasses out, because if they have the same size seed as the forbes, we can't tell them apart."

"Now I'm using bison and not spraying these fields at all. They won't pay any attention to the crops I'm after; they just eat the grass."

Bison can end up white because of being albino, (and remain unpigmented throughout their lives), being leucistic (and having white fur but blue eyes due to one of a variety of conditions that result in

the partial loss of pigmentation) or having a genetic condition that causes them to be born white, but to become brown within a couple of years.

Claims of white bison are nowhere near as rare as actual white bison. Hamilton said there are only four known examples, including the new addition in Texas County.

"There are thousands of white bison," he said, "but most of them are crossed between Charolais and bison and then bred back to where they're a sixteenth Charolais or that kind of thing. So they look like a bison, but they're still not pure bred."

"As far as I know, this one is legitimate albino bison."

Hamilton purchased 112 bison last spring from a man in the Bitterroot Mountains of Montana, including the white calf's mother. He said the situation is even more amazing because the other three known examples are owned by the same Montana man.

"We've become pretty good friends through the bison," Hamilton said. "I texted him about the calf and he came back with, 'welcome to the club! Right now the club is just you and me!' Then I said, 'oops, that probably wasn't supposed to happen,' and he said, 'no, I probably would have kept that one if I knew.'"

The calf's mother is a 6-year-old cow who is part of a herd of about 35 head living on a 180-acre tract where multiple native forbes are grown. Hamilton has about 90 more bison on another tract and another 40 on a third property, including large, majestic bulls weighing in the neighborhood of 2,500 pounds.

So far, the calf is eating well and filling out well, and the mother is taking good care of her little girl.

See BISON, A8



DOUG DAVISON | HOUSTON HERALD

Colt Hamilton stands in front of one of his bison herds last week in a field in south central Texas County.

## SHERIFF

The following are excerpts from just some of the reports recently generated by the Texas County Sheriff's Department:

■Quinton I. Hoover, 22, of 18301 Cape Lane in Houston, was arrested July 7 for having an active Texas County warrant for a felony charge of stealing \$750 or more.

A deputy made the arrest in a courtroom at the Justice Center after being advised Hoover was there. He was taken to jail and held without bond.

■Brandy Roark, 34, of 14403 Gentry Lane at Plato, was arrested June 28 for having an active Texas County warrant for felony charges of forgery and stealing \$750 or more.

A deputy who was aware of the warrant made the arrest at Roark's residence. She was taken to the Texas County Jail with a bond set at \$25,000.

■Deputies were dispatched at about 1:05 p.m. July regarding a report of a domestic incident at a Bartlett Drive residence near Willow Springs.

An investigating officer made contact with a 34-year-old man there who said a 32-year-old woman had grabbed his hair and hit him in the groin, and that he had pushed her out the door to prevent her from assaulting him any further.

The woman told officers that the man had dragged her out of the shower and thrown her out, and that she grabbed his hair and struck his groin to protect herself.

An aggressor was not identified in the incident and No charges were filed.

■A 39-year-old woman reported on June 29 that a 56-year-old woman had approached her at Walmart and threatened to burn down her house and later placed note in her mailbox that said "I would burn it down but I am concerned for the dog" on one side and "I will be watching you" on the other side.

An investigating officer made contact with the alleged suspect and she admitted to both actions.

The victim told the officers she wouldn't press charges if the suspect stopped threatening her family.

On July 5, she came to the sheriff's department and filled out a decline to prosecute form and said the other woman hadn't bothered her again.

### JAIL ADMISSIONS

See a list of Texas County Jail admissions at [www.houstonherald.com](http://www.houstonherald.com).

## POLICE

The following are excerpts from some of the reports recently generated by the Houston Police Department:

■Julie L. Trolinger, 53, of 110 E. Chestnut St. in Houston, was issued a citation for fourth-degree assault after an incident involving a 56-year-old woman on June 16.

On July 8, Trolinger was cited for stealing under \$750 after allegedly shoplifting at Walmart on July 7.

■An officer was dispatched at about 1 a.m. June 25 regarding a report of theft at a Grand Avenue residence.

A 39-year-old man there told the officer that his motorized bicycle valued at \$350 had been stolen off of his porch. A 14-year-old boy was identified as a suspect and a report was sent to the county juvenile division.

■Loretta I. Cantrell, 69, of 416 N. Grand Ave. in Houston, was issued a citation for allowing an animal to run at large on July 1.

■Jason W. Hill, 48, of 19337 Vollmar Drive in Raymondville, was arrested July 4 for having two active warrants, one for a probation and parole violation and another for two counts of unlawful possession of a firearm.

An officer made the arrest at the state probation and parole office after being advised Hill was there. He was taken to the Texas County Jail and held without bond.

■Montana L. Stewart, 29, of 16714 Brushy Creek Road in Houston, was arrested July 3 for having an active Texas County warrant for a felony forgery charge.

An officer who was aware of the warrant made the arrest after observing Stewart as a passenger in a vehicle and then stopping it at U.S. 63 and Brushy Creek Road. He was taken to jail with a bond set at \$3,000.

## CORONER'S REPORT

Texas County coroner Marie Lasater answered 23 calls in June 2023.

In the county, there were 19 natural deaths, including cancer (7), stroke (2), heart disease (4), pneumonia (2), pulmonary embolism (2), respiratory disease and advanced age. One case is undetermined at this time, pending further investigation.

Three accidental deaths occurred, two due to falls and one due to motor vehicle crash.

There was one offender death at South Central Correctional Center in June. An autopsy revealed the cause of death was high blood pressure leading to a brain bleed with no suspicion of illicit drug use.



# NEWS

## Texas County Fair set for July 25-29

The schedule for the 73rd annual Texas County Fair has been announced.

The event is hosted by the Texas County Fair Board and held at the Houston Area Chamber of Commerce Fairgrounds on North U.S. 63.

Here is the schedule:

Tuesday, July 25: 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. poultry check-in; 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. horticulture, field crops, ag mechanics, home economics check-in; and 5 to 7 p.m. rabbit check-in.

Wednesday, July 26: 7 a.m. to 4 p.m. (Must be in place by 4 p.m.) Market goats, lambs, hogs, steers and replacement heifers check-in; 8 a.m. open and youth rabbit show; 10 a.m. poultry show (no exhibitors in the barn during the show); noon to 2 p.m. poultry and rabbit showmanship show; market goats, lambs, hogs, steers and heifers weigh-in and ultrasound, 5 p.m. ; order for weigh-in and ultrasound — goats, lambs, hogs and steers. Replacement heifers — weight only. Tractor check-in is noon to 4 p.m.



Thursday, July 27 — 7 to 11 a.m. breeding beef and dairy cattle, swine, meat and dairy goats, breeding sheep; 3 p.m. sheep show and meat goat show follows. Rabbit, poultry, sheep and goat exhibitor

pictures (for market animals) following goat show. Sheep, goat and bottle calf fashion show (followed by pictures). 7:30 p.m., pizza party and movie.

Friday, July 28: 8 a.m. swine show and beef show follows; 4 p.m. dairy cattle show followed by dairy goat show; 5-6 p.m. horticulture, field crops, ag production, home economics check-out; 6 p.m. tractor parade; and 6:30 p.m. ag Olympics.

Saturday, July 29: 10:30 a.m. awards ceremony; 11:30 a.m. tractor parade; noon to 1 p.m., supporters' appreciation dinner; and 2 p.m. livestock sale.

Times are subject to change.

For more information, contact the Fair Board by phone at 417-260-0471 or by email at [texascountyfairboard@gmail.com](mailto:texascountyfairboard@gmail.com). Information about competition rules and regulations and a detailed schedule can be viewed by downloading the Complete 2023 Fair Book online at the Fair Board's Facebook page.

A special section dedicated to the fair will accompany next week's issue of the *Houston Herald*.

## Play set for lengthy run at Star Theater in Willow Springs

The Star Dramatic Company will present its newest production, "The Mysterious Beast of Gévaudan" on six dates in late July at the Historic Star Theater in Willow Springs.

"The Mysterious Beast of Gévaudan" is written and directed by Jo-Martin Archuleta and inspired by actual events. The tale takes place in the early fall of 1776 in a little remote village in the Gévaudan region of Southern France, under the reign of King Louis XV. The story follows the struggles of a poor peasant family plagued by a mysterious beast. It roamed the countryside for three years attacking well over 200 people and killing over 100. Now, nearly 250 years later, it's a gruesome piece of little known history that remains a mystery to this day.

The presentation begins with showings at 7 p.m. Friday, July 21, and Saturday, July 22, and at 3 p.m. Sunday, July 23. The following weekend will feature shows at 7 p.m. Friday and Saturday (July 28 and 29), followed by the final showing at 3 p.m. Sunday, July 30.

Admission is \$8 at the door. More information can be found online at [www.facebook.com/star.dramatic](http://www.facebook.com/star.dramatic).

## Search begins for new CFO leader

The Community Foundation of the Ozarks is launching a national search for its next president and chief executive officer.

Current President and CEO Brian Fogle announced to the CFO board of directors and staff earlier this year his intention to retire in late 2023 or early 2024. The executive search process is the next step in a planned succession to ensure a smooth leadership transition for the region's largest public charitable foundation.

The search process is being conducted by Scion Executive Search under the direction of the CFO's governing officers, led by Board Chair Dean Thompson. Scion was selected after directing a previous successful leadership search process for the CFO.

Details of the position announcement are available at [cfozarks.org/careers](http://cfozarks.org/careers). The CFO is seeking a highly qualified individual with experience at a community or other foundation or relevant management level; financial and investment expertise; a record of community leadership and collaboration; and a commitment to place-based philanthropy that is the core of a community foundation's mission. The CFO is currently the 69th largest of about 900 U.S. community foundations. It holds assets of about \$415 million in some 3,600 funds held on behalf of donors, nonprofit partners and a network of 53 regional affiliate foundations. The

Houston Community Foundation is an affiliate.

Fogle, who will be 67 at retirement, joined the CFO in 2008 as its third president, following the late Jan Horton and Dr. Gary Funk. He brought experience from his career in banking, higher education and community development. His tenure has emphasized the growth of the CFO's nonprofit partnerships to more than 700 today, the launch of the mission-related investment program, and a broad array of local, regional, state and national leadership activities.

"We are extremely fortunate to have had Brian's business acumen and his natural instincts to build relationships and partnerships for the past 15 years," said Thompson, a vice president at Springfield City Utilities and currently a loaned executive at the Springfield Area Chamber of Commerce. "But we respect his desire to move into his next phase of life as the CFO also starts its new chapter after celebrating its first 50 years in June. We are fully confident he has laid the foundation for a successful transition to the CFO's next leader."

Founded in 1973, the Community Foundation of the Ozarks serves a network of donors, 53 regional affiliate foundations and nonprofit partners across central and southern Missouri through its mission of resource development, community grantmaking, collaboration and public leadership.



FOGLE



DOUG DAVISON | HOUSTON HERALD

A huge bull American Bison stands next to other members of his herd last week on property owned by Hamilton Native Outpost CEO Colt Hamilton.

## Bison

Continued from Page A5

"She took right to her," Hamilton said, "and she's just part of the herd. When you see her, you can tell how that would stand out on the prairie, with a thousand brown ones and one white one."

Some Native American tribes considered white buffalo to be a good omen, while others saw them as a bad sign. Among those on the positive side were the Sioux, Cherokee, Navaho and Lakota, who similarly held the sacred story of the White Buffalo Calf Woman in high regard. Basically, she appeared and offered valuable teachings, and when she left, she promised to one day return and restore harmony and spirituality to a troubled world.

"I like the restoration part of the story," Hamilton said, "because that's such a big part of what we do."

Hamilton said he wouldn't be surprised if leaders from various Native American nations get in touch with him about organizing a white bison calf gathering.

"A lot of times when they find out

about one, they come and there's a big naming ceremony that can last for days," he said. "We haven't named it yet; we're kind of waiting to see if they want to."

Although they're members of the bovine family, bison don't bawl like a cow, but vocalize with a grunt, almost like a hog. Hamilton said they're highly intelligent animals with long and sharp memories. "And if you treat them with respect, they'll have respect for you," he said, "but if you break their trust, they will disrespect you. They can run up to 40 miles per hour, so you aren't going to outrun them. But I move mine on foot, because they feel they can have that trust."

To tend to peoples' interest in the white bison calf, HNO personnel will post YouTube videos online providing updates on it.

"We would love for people to follow it on YouTube," Hamilton said.

HNO now offers seeds from about 130 plants native to Missouri. The company's website and Facebook page also offer detailed information and insight about habitat and acreage restoration, and other related video clips.

The phone number at HNO is 417-967-2190.

## A room decked in red



DOUG DAVISON | HOUSTON HERALD

City of Houston Fire Department Chief Robbie Smith sits in his office last Friday, surrounded by an elaborate set of decorations. The decor was applied by a pair of fire department members while Smith was on vacation, and he discovered the situation when he returned last Friday morning. The red-themed room was even equipped with red electrical outlet and light switch covers, and the fuse box door and ceiling vent had been painted red. The door to the office was covered in red paper and light switches were transparent and equipped with internal red lights.